

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 ACDA-07  
MCE-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA/FMRA:JREINERTSON;PM/ISO:CCORDER  
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA  
ARA/CAR:RJSURBER  
ARA/CAR:DPIERCE  
ARA/RPP:SQUIGG

-----078818 041008Z /13

R 032014Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182239

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:BF, US, MARR, MMOL, MPOL

SUBJECT: TRIDENT EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION AT GRAND BAHAMA AAF

REF: NASSAU 838

1. WE REGRET THAT EMBASSY NASSAU WAS NOT GIVEN TIMELY  
NOTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONICS  
EQUIPMENT AT GRAND BAHAMA AAF, AND THAT IT CONSEQUENTLY  
RECEIVED INITIAL NOTICE THROUGH A NON-OFFICIAL SOURCE.

2. REGARDING THAT CONTRACT, DOD HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING  
INFORMATION:

A. NAVY STRATEGIC SYSTEMS PROJECT OFFICE (SSPO) HAS  
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CONTRACTED WITH INTERSTATE ELECTRONICS CORP. FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A FLIGHT TEST SUPPORT  
SYSTEM TO USE IN TESTS OF THE TRIDENT MISSILE. THE  
INSTALLATION AT GBI IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF FIVE  
INSTALLATIONS AT VARIOUS SITES (INCLUDING GRAND TURK)  
DESIGNED TO TRACK MISSILES AND RECORD TEST DATA. THE  
ESTIMATED COST OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT IS SIXTY MILLION

DOLLARS OF WHICH EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT GBI.

B- CONTRACTOR ANTICIPATES EMPLOYMENT OF 15-20 SPECIALLY TRAINED TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS AT GBI. THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE WORK WILL BE THE INSTALLATION AND CHECKOUT OF ABOUT 25 RACKS OF EQUIPMENT INSIDE PRESENT TRACKING STATION. ONLY VISIBLE EXTERNAL ACTIVITY WOULD BE MINOR MODIFICATION OF PRESENT TELEMETRY ANTENNAE AND INSTALLATION OF SEVERAL TV-SIZE ANTENNAE, ONE OF WHICH POSSIBLY WILL REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION OF A 50 FOOT ANTENNA TOWER. ALL WORK WILL BE DONE ON THE USAF FACILITY AND USE POWER GENERATED AT THE FACILITY. WORK IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OCTOBER 1, 1977 WITH INSTALLATION AND CHECKOUT EXPECTED TO REQUIRE 1-2 YEARS DURATION. SYSTEM WILL BE USED INTO FORESEEABLE FUTURE AFTER CHECKOUT IS COMPLETE FOR SUPPORT OF THE TRIDENT MISSILE PROGRAM. A REDUCED NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WILL BE NEEDED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3. EMBASSY'S CONCERN REGARDING THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THIS PROJECT AND POSSIBLE INFLUX OF DEPENDENTS TO GBI AT THIS TIME IS APPRECIATED, AND SHARED HERE. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, STATE AND DEFENSE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IMPORTANCE OF THE TRIDENT TESTING PROGRAM, AND ABSENCE OF OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTERNATIVES, REQUIRES INSTALLATION AS SCHEDULED. WE WOULD WISH, HOWEVER, TO MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S. NEGOTIATING POSTURE. WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE INSTALLATION ACTIVITY CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT ENTIRELY OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW, IT CAN BE GIVEN A LOW PROFILE.

4. TO THIS END, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES REGARDING RELOCATION OF DEPENDENTS: (IN ASSESSING THESE ALTERNATIVES, THE FOLLOWING FACTS ARE PERTINENT - ORIGINAL CONTRACT WAS PRICED BASED ON PRESUMPTION THAT FAMILIES WOULD LIVE IN FLORIDA AND NOT ON GBI, AND CONTRACTOR IS HAVING SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY OBTAINING QUALIFIED ENGINEERS/ TECHNICIANS WILLING TO WORK AWAY FROM FAMILIES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME.)

A. CONTRACTOR DEPENDENTS, TO BE LOCATED NEAR CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA WITH WEEKLY COMMUTING FLIGHTS FOR CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL TO GBI MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS. DURING THE WEEK THE CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WOULD BE HOUSED AT THE BOQ ON STATION. WHILE THIS ARRANGEMENT IS NOT WRITTEN INTO CONTRACT, IT CAN BE CONSTITUTED AS REQUIREMENT AT

SOME ADDITIONAL COST.

B. RELOCATION OF FAMILIES OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF

TECHNICIANS (5-7) ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT TO GBI,  
WITH REMAINDER REQUIRED TO COMMUTE FROM FLORIDA.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF PUBLICITY, WE DO  
NOT INTEND TO OFFICIALLY INFORM THE GOB OF THIS  
ADDITIONAL CAPABILITY AT GRAND BAHAMA AAF. ANY INQUIRIES  
WHICH MAY ARISE REGARDING THE ACTIVITY UNDERWAY SHOULD  
BE ANSWERED TO THE EFFECT THAT U.S. IS MERELY UPDATING  
THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT OF THE FACILITY TO KEEP ABREAST  
OF LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.  
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6. LOCAL IMPLICATIONS OF MUCH SMALLER FACILITY AT GRAND  
TURK WILL BE SENT LATER.

7. FOR BRIDGETOWN: FOREGOING IS FYI ONLY. WE UNDERSTAND  
ANOTHER OF THE INSTALLATIONS MENTIONED PARA 2A WILL BE  
AT ANTIGUA AF ETR FACILITIES. YOU WILL RECEIVE SEPARATE  
MESSAGE AT LATER DATE ON LOCAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS  
SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** TRIDENT EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION AT GRAND BAHAMA AAF  
**TAGS:** MARR, MMOL, MPOL, BF, US, INTERSTATE ELECTRONICS CORP  
**To:** NASSAU  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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